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Food and Nutrition

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What's Going On in Family Feeding Programs...

Dial a Number for Food Help

EIGHT PILOT LOCATIONS currently have telephone listings which provide an easy way for potential food help recipients to find the correct number for information. The number, listed as FOOD HELP PROGRAM, appears alphabetically in the white pages, with cross references in the government section of both the white and yellow pages. By dialing this number the person seeking information is connected with local food help officials who can answer questions about food assistance.

The pilot projects are in Mendocino County, California; Wilmington, Delaware; Indianapolis, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Shepherdsville, Kentucky; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Portland, Oregon; and Kenosha, Wisconsin.

FAMILY FOOD ASSISTANCE REACHES 14.1 MILLION PEOPLE

AN ESTIMATED 14.1 million people took part in the family food assistance programs in September 1971. 10.6 million participated in the Food Stamp Program, while 3.5 million took part in the Food Distribution Program. This is a 22 per-

cent increase in both programs over the previous September.

NEW AREAS GET FOOD STAMPS

A TOTAL OF 192 additional areas in 26 States have been designated for the Food Stamp Program. Previously, 190 of these areas had carried the Food Distribution Program, and the remaining 2 counties--both in Kansas--had no family food program. Implementation of the Food Stamp Program in these areas is contingent upon State submission of an acceptable plan of operation under the new Food Stamp regulations announced in July.

Plans of Operation Are In

UNDER THE NEW Food Stamp regulations, 45 States and the District of Columbia have submitted Plans of Operation. The Food Stamp Division has commented on 43 of the plans and recommended changes when necessary. The three remaining plans are currently being reviewed by the Division and comments are expected to be out soon.

West Virginia and South Dakota were the first to implement the new basis of issuance and eligibility standards.

programs under which meals are provided for children, with a view to improving these programs.

THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY of the Massachusetts Medical Society--a volunteer group of physicians' wives interested in combatting malnutrition--are sponsoring a series of eight nutrition education seminars this fall.

MEETINGS OF NOTE

THE WORLD OF TEENAGERS was the scope of the Nutrition Education Conference held in Washington, D.C., Nov. 2-4, at the Mayflower Hotel.

The purpose of the Conference was to provide an opportunity for nutritionists and workers in allied professions at the State and local levels to meet with members of the Interagency Committee on Nutrition Education to consider together the nutritional situation of teenage youth. In particular, they discussed teenagers' values, lifestyle, eating habits and health.

The sponsors were USDA, through its Nutrition Programs Service, and the Interagency Committee on Nutrition Education. This was the sixth such government sponsored Conference. Previous ones were held in 1941, 1952, 1957, 1962, and 1967.

THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL on Child Nutrition held its third meeting Nov. 1, at USDA. Members were filled in on developments regarding school lunch and school breakfast regulations. They expressed great interest in nutrition education, especially for the child, and in reaching schools currently without food service, and reviewed the draft of the Council's report to the President and Congress.

The function of the Council is to continuously study the operation of

The meetings, beginning the first week of October and running into December, will be held in Boston, Concord, Amherst, Worcester, and Segreganset. The themes include: "Key Nutrients," "Food Assistance Programs," "Big Ideas in Nutrition Education," and "Volunteer Opportunities."

food stamp booklets give nutrition information

FOOD STAMP COUPON BOOKLETS will soon carry nutrition education messages on the inside front cover. A series of different messages, to be changed periodically, will stress the importance of eating foods from the "Basic Four" food groups every day. The initial message lists the four groups and gives examples of foods under each category.

The new coupon books will be distributed to issuing agencies soon.

FOREIGN VISITORS LOOK AT LUNCH PROGRAM

THE CHILD NUTRITION DIVISION, which administers the National School Lunch Program, hosted a number of foreign visitors in October. Two groups from Brazil, a government official from Mexico, a trio of school lunch officials from the Philippine Islands, and the food advisor from the University of Pretoria in South Africa, came to get ideas on how to operate successful lunch programs.

REGULATIONS FOR FUNDING SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

REGULATIONS FOR THE FUNDING of the National School Lunch Program in 1971-1972 have been announced. The regulations will be published in the Federal Register on November 17.

Principal provisions are:

- The minimum Federal Section 4 reimbursement rate guaranteed from general cash-for-food assistance funds is a Statewide average of 6 cents a lunch. Additional funds will be provided to any State to enable it to maintain a Statewide average Section 4 rate of assistance for Type A lunches served in 1972. Section 4 funds are used to help schools purchase food for lunches served to both needy and non-needy children. Some States will have sufficient funds from their initial share of apportioned Section 4 funds to maintain a Statewide average rate in excess of 6 cents in 1972 and those States will be able to pay higher average rates. States have the authority to use variable reimbursement rates to meet the needs of individual schools.

- Additional fundings provided from special cash assistance (Section 11) funds for free lunches is at a minimum of 40 cents or the cost of providing a Type A lunch, whichever is the lesser. Reimbursement for reduced price lunches is at a minimum of 40 cents less the highest price charged for a reduced price lunch, or the cost of providing a Type A lunch less the highest reduced price charged the child for the lunch.

- For a free lunch in especially needy schools up to 60 cents or the cost of providing a Type A lunch (which-

ever is the lesser) will be reimbursed. For a reduced price lunch in especially needy schools, the reimbursement rate shall be either 60 cents less the highest price charged for a reduced price lunch in the school or the cost of providing a Type A lunch less the highest price charged for a reduced price lunch in the school. In no case, regardless of the rate of reimbursement, can the Federal reimbursement exceed the cost of the lunch or 60 cents, whichever is the lesser.

- Reimbursement will be paid to schools for free and reduced price lunches served in accordance with the eligibility standards established by the school and approved by the State prior to October 1. Eligibility criteria approved for schools entering the program after October 1, must fall within the State agency's eligibility standards announced before October 1.

- The States are required to hold 50 percent of their nonfood assistance money in reserve for the "no program" schools in their area, through January of the school year, unless the States can show cause that such amount is not needed for no-program schools. This provision has been included in order to use nonfood (equipment) assistance funds to begin programs in those needy schools now without food service.

- The regulations also make clear that States cannot authorize "blanket approval" for schools to receive Section 11 special cash assistance for all lunches unless all the children in the school meet promulgated eligibility criteria for such lunches.

OFF PRESS

- "The School Lunch Bunch--Nutrition in Today's Schools," filmstrip and slide set with narrative guide. The filmstrip can be ordered for \$5.50 from Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Ave., N.W., Wash., D.C. 20011. To order the slide set, send \$11.00 to Photography Division, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wash., D.C. 20250. Record with audible and inaudible frequency tone to change frames automatically is \$3.00. Narrative in Spanish on magnetic tape is \$1.00.

- "The National School Lunch Program Background and Development" and "A Guide for Planning Food Service in Child Care Centers." Single copies available to schools and child care centers.

- "The Daily Food Guide," an 8-by-10½-inch poster, and the "Good Foods Coloring Book," available in Spanish.

- A series of publications in Spanish on how to prepare economy meals, featuring cooking ideas using donated foods--from nonfat dry milk to rolled wheat. The series consists mainly of 2-page flyers reprinted from the food kit, "Recipes for Thrifty Families."

For copies of above publications, write: Food and Nutrition Service, Information Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

- "Index of Consumer Information." Nearly 200 low-cost booklets issued by the Federal Government, containing valuable consumer information, are listed in the latest edition. The publications advise consumers how to buy, use, and take care of products. They cover many areas, including food, diet and nutrition.

Free copies of the 16-page Index may be obtained by writing to Consumer Product Information, Washington, D.C. 20407.

Washington State Conducts School Feeding Study

FNS HAS AWARDED A CONTRACT to Washington State University to conduct a 2-year study on school feeding programs.

The WSU study will investigate why some schools do not participate in school feeding programs; effects of school feeding on the total dietary intake of schoolchildren from selected ethnic groups, particularly those from low-income families; food acceptance by ethnic groups; nutritional differences, if any, among whites, blacks, and Spanish-Americans and all children participating and not participating in school feeding programs; and recommendations to improve menu and management patterns to increase participation in school feeding programs.

Harvard to Study Cholesterol in Teenage Boys

FNS HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT with Harvard University for the proposed project, "Child Nutrition Program Implications of Cholesterol Levels in Adolescent Children."

This study is intended to obtain information on level of blood cholesterol in 12-16 year-old boys; determine whether acceptable, nutritious diets can be developed to change cholesterol levels; interpret findings regarding dietary impacts on cholesterol levels in light of school feeding program requirements; and recommend program changes where health benefits can be established.